*T/N- KANJI READS AS "SHOUGI EVERY DAY FOR A WEEK."

GAME 12 BROKEN ROOK

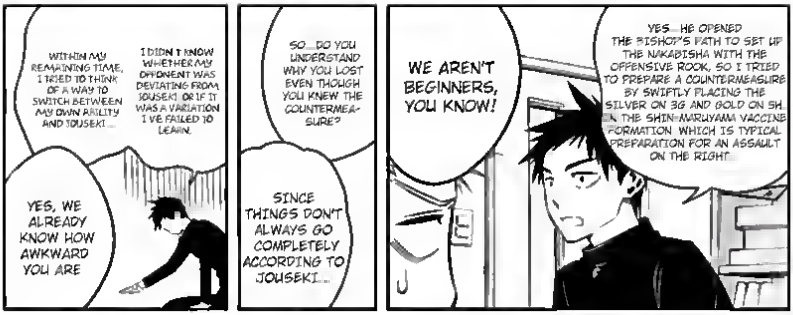
IKEZAWA HARUTO EDITOR: HASHIMOTO TAKANORI

A NUMBER OF WEEKS SINCE THE FIERCE FIGHT WITH JIPPO AT HIS FIRST TOURNAMENT...

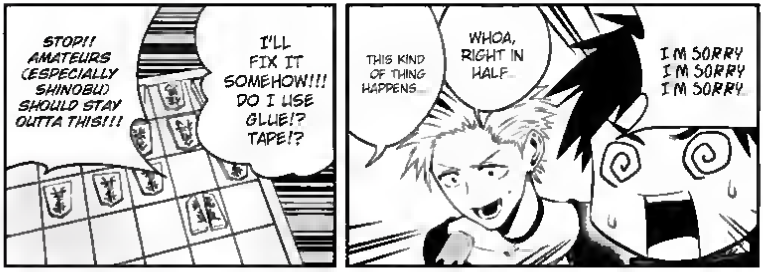
AH,
THANK YOU...
.....
...YOU WERE COOL TOO, TAKARA-KUN.
JIPPO-KUN! ...I'M SORRY FOR ALWAYS MAKING YOU ACCOMMO-DATE ME.
SO YOU CAN GET BETTER AT MANAGING YOUR TIME.
TONIGHT LET'S PLAY USING TEN SECONDS PER MOVE!
HEY, SHINOBU, ARE YOU DONE WITH SCHOOL!?
YES!!!
YOU'RE MY ONLY RIVAL NOW, AFTER ALL.
...WELL, WE NEED TO MAKE YOU STRONGER, SHINOBU.

YOU MADE IT TO THE THIRD ROUND IN THE TOURNAMENT YESTERDAY?
YES,.. BUT I RAN OUT OF TIME, OF COURSE, AND THE MIDDLE GAME BECAME A MESS...
HIS OPPONENT USED GOKINAKA SHINOBU DID SOMETHING LIKE A SUPER-FAST SILVER?
D'YOU KNOW WHAT WE MEAN BY GOKINA-KA?
IT'S GOKIGEN NAKABI-SHA*

*T/N: GOKIGEN NAKABISHA IS A POPULAR OPENING STRATEGY INVOLVING THE ROOK


YES... HE OPENED THE BISHOP'S PATH TO SET UP THE NAKABISHA WITH THE OFFENSIVE ROOK, SO I TRIED TO PREPARE A COUNTERMEASURE BY SWIFTLY PLACING THE SILVER ON 3G AND GOLD ON 5H, THE SHIN-MARUYAMA VACCINE FORMATION WHICH IS TYPICAL PREPARATION FOR AN ASSAULT ON THE RIGHT.
WE AREN'T BEGINNERS, YOU KNOW!
SO... DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY YOU LOST EVEN THOUGH YOU KNEW THE COUNTERMEA-SURE?
SINCE THINGS DON'T ALWAYS GO COMPLETELY ACCORDING TO JOUSEKI...
WITHIN MY REMAINING TIME, I TRIED TO THINK OF A WAY TO SWITCH BETWEEN MY OWN ABILITY AND TOUSEKI...
I DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER MY OPPONENT WAS DEVIATING FROM TOUSEKI OR IF IT WAS A VARIATION I'VE FAILED TO LEARN.
YES, WE ALREADY KNOW HOW AWKWARD YOU ARE

AHH HHH HHH HHH H!!?
SNAP?


STOP!! AMATEURS (ESPECIALLY SHINOBU) SHOULD STAY OUTTA THIS!!!
I'LL FIX IT SOMEHOW!!! DO I USE GLUE!? TAPE!?
THIS KIND OF THING HAPPENS...
WHOA, RIGHT IN HALF...
I'M SORRY I'M SORRY I'M SORRY...

I GOT NOTHIN' TO DO THERE.
SHIBUYA, HUH...
IS THAT REALLY A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL?
C'MON ANYONE GO? YOU CAN MAKE IT INTO A SHOPPING TRIP IF YOU LIKE.
ME 'N KAZUKI HAVE TO DO RECORDS.
...WELL THEN,
IF YOU INSIST.. THERE'S A MASTER WOODWORKER IN SHIBUYA THAT'S ALWAYS HELPED US OUT..
WOULD YOU ASK HIM TO TAKE A LOOK AT IT?

WHY D'YOU GOTTA CHANGE HERE!?
IS MY GOOD UNDERWEAR DRY?
LIKE I'D KNOW!

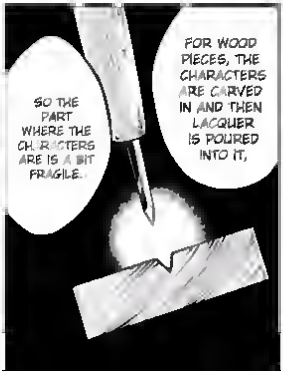
WAAAAAAH!!!
WELL... I DON'T WANNA PUT SELLOTAPE ON THE ROOK EITHER, SO I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED

IS THAT SO?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT TOO MUCH. THIS HAPPENS EVERY NOW AND THEN...

AT LEAST GO TO THE WASHROOM!!!
Sigh...

IT'S ALSO A PIECE THAT'S USUALLY PLAYED WITH GUSTO
SO YOU SEE,

THEY GO ALONG THE ENTIRE CENTER, RIGHT?
LOOK AT THE ROOK, ESPECIALLY.
飛車
AH...

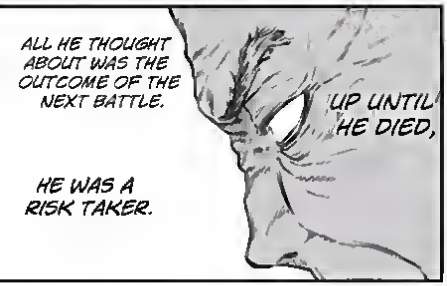

SO THE PART WHERE THE CHARACTERS ARE IS A BIT FRAGILE...
FOR WOOD PIECES, THE CHARACTERS ARE CARVED IN AND THEN LACQUER IS POURED INTO IT,

EVER SINCE I MET SHINOBU, I'VE BEEN ALL OUT OF SORTS.
THAT'S WHY THE ROOK IS THE ONE THAT BREAKS.

MY SHOUGI IS...!!
I'VE NEVER HAD IT IN ME TO PLAY SHOUGI WITH A SMILE.

THE LEGENDARY MEIJIN,
FUJIKAWA GANRYUU.

DIDN'T TEACH
ME SHOUGI
EVEN ONCE.
JII-
CHAN


ALL HE THOUGHT
ABOUT WAS THE
OUTCOME OF THE
NEXT BATTLE.
HE WAS A
RISK TAKER.

UP UNTIL
HE DIED,
DURING HIS
CAREER,
I'LL BECOME
A MEIJIN LIKE
JII-CHAN!!
I
ADMIRED
THAT
ABOUT
HIM.

I GUESS JUST BECAUSE HE'S THE MEIJIN DOESN'T MEAN HE'S A GOOD TEACHER
FUJIKAWA LOST? SERIOUSLY, IT'S ABOUT TIME.
IT'S NOT FAIR.
OF COURSE HE WINS.
HE GETS TO LEARN FROM A MEIJIN EVERY DAY, RIGHT?
WAS MY ONLY GOAL.
TO GO PRO, TO KEEP ON WINNING,
ALL I COULD DO WAS GET STRONG ON MY OWN
LOSING MEANT I WAS CARELESS I COULD ONLY HURT MY GRAND FATHER'S NAME
-NING WAS A GIVEN.
PLAYING WITH A SMILE
WAS SOMETHING I NEVER EVEN THOUGHT OF.
I NEVER ONCE
THOUGHT THAT SHOGI WAS FUN.

IT'S MY LOSS.
UNTIL I MET THAT GUY.
I JUST PLAY SHOUGI FOR FUN.
I WON'T GO PRO.
I CAN'T MOVE FORWARD.....!!!!
UNTIL I BEAT HIM,
ANYWAY, THE METRO TOURNAMENT.
AOBA WILL BE THERE.
.....NGH !!!

SHIBUYA 109
SHIBUYA IS SO CLOSE!!!
WELL YEAH, WE LIVE IN THE SHIBUYA WARD
THAT ASIDE, ARE YOUR UNIFORM AND SWEATS ALL YOU HAVE TO WEAR?
YES.
I JUST WENT BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN SCHOOL AND HOME, SO I NEVER NEEDED OTHER CLOTHING.
YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOL LIFE MUST'VE BEEN HELL.
Hachiko*

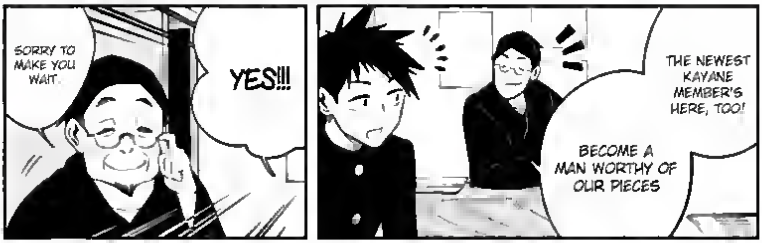
*T/N: HACHIKO IS THE FAMOUS DOG STATUE IN SHIBUYA NEAR THE STATION

ALL RIGHT, THEN! LET'S GO STRAIGHT TO OUR DESTINATION, BASTARD.
?
LIKE, "THIS IS A DATE"" OR "SHALL WE GO FOR TEA?" OR SOMETHING.
.. IT'S OKAY TO BE JUST A LITTLE WORKED UP.

Out-in-Public Mode
FUFU, YOU'RE TOO KIND.
I'M EXPECTING YOU TO BE THE FIRST FEMALE PRO!*
YOU'RE WORKING HARD TOO, HUH, MINATO-CHAN.
YES.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE IS YACCHAN DOING WELL?
¥350,000?

*T/N. ABOUT $3,000 US.

*T/N. NO FEMALE SHOUGI PLAYER HAS YET WON THROUGH THE PRO QUALIFIER LEAGUES TO BECOME AN OFFICIALLY CERTIFIED PRO (KISHI).



I'LL GO SEE IF WE HAVE ANY SIMILAR PIECES IN STOCK.
IF WE DON'T HAVE ANY, YOU CAN PLACE AN ORDER WITH KIJISHI-SAN AND COME BACK IN A WEEK.
WE'LL MAKE YOU A NEW ROOK.
?
ALL WE CAN DO IS REPLACE IT WITH A MATCHING PIECE.
WE CAN'T REPAIR SOMETHING THAT'S BROKEN TO THIS EXTENT...
There's the problem with rare pieces.

IT'LL BE A WHILE,
SO FEEL FREE TO PLAY WITH THE SAMPLE PIECES OVER THERE.
!!!

KAYANE MANOR IS SPECIAL, SO NO WORRIES.
JUST WAIT FOR A BIT.
THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF US!!!

MINA

CAN WE REALLY!?

WELL THEN...
HM? AH, SO MINA-TO-CHAN'S TAKING A DAY OFF.

NO WAY.
WHEN I PLAY AGAINST YOU GUYS FROM HOME I CAN'T KEEP UP THIS FACE
Play by yourself.
.....

YOUNG MAN OVER THERE, ARE YOU UP FOR IT!?
.....
ARE YOU... REFERRING TO ME?
NO... I'M JUST A FIRST YEAR RUNNING ERRANDS
AND DOESN'T XX HIGH SCHOOL HAVE A PRESTI-GIOUS SHOUGI CLUB?
YOU'RE HERE TO REPAIR CLUB EQUIPMENT, RIGHT? IT'LL STILL BE A WHILE, SO WHY NOT!
WELL,
I GUESS I CAN PLAY A LITTLE
SO IF YOU DON'T MIND LIM
I... I AM ALSO A FIRST YEAR!!!

WOW... THESE PIECES FEEL...
SORT OF SOFT!!!
!!?
チ

ピッ
パチ
ピッッ

. HIS STYLE OF PLAY IS SO IMMACU-LATE !!

SFX: GLANCE

チラ
IT'S JUST... FOR SOME REASON,

...THIS IS FUN.
WE SEEM TO BE ABOUT THE SAME SKILL LEVEL,
AND WE'RE BOTH FIRST YEARS. .!

パチ
ピッ
SOMETHING'S
STRANGE.
THIS
SHOUGI.
...
WHAT?
WHAT
...!?
THE
HECK
...!!!

IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S JUST PROMPTING MOVES.
IT'S DIFFERENT FROM THE "KINDNESS" OF TEACHING...
IT'S MORE LIKE AN INDIFFERENT OBSERVATION.
THIS IS ALMOST LIKE A COACHING GAME.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HIS SKILL LEVEL IS, BUT...
HE LEFT HIMSELF OPEN HERE.

FROM SOMEWHERE HIGH ABOVE.
IT'S LIKE HE'S PEERING DOWN

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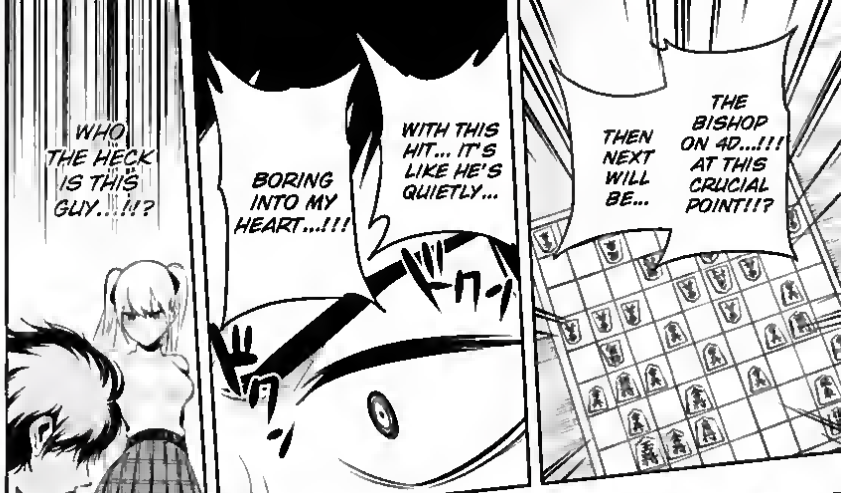
THE BISHOP ON 4D...!!! AT THIS CRUCIAL POINT!!?
THEN NEXT WILL BE...
WITH THIS HIT... IT'S LIKE HE'S QUIETLY...
BORING INTO MY HEART...!!!
WHO THE HECK IS THIS GUY...!!?

AHH, SO THIS IS WHERE YOU WERE!!
.....
UHH, CAPTAIN? HE'S STILL AT THE PIECES SHOP.
YOU'RE TAKING FOREVER! I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU

AOBA.
THAT WAS.....
THE MAN WHO CLOSED OFF
RINDOU'S FUTURE.
First
Fujikawa Rindou
Second
Yurimine Aoba
AO.....
BA.....!!?
MONONOFU
...GAME 12
END

mononofu

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THANK YOU FOR READING!